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Letter dated 10 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Towards the end of April 2016, the delegation of Ukraine circulated two slanderous documents at the United Nations that had been prepared by Kiev for the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington. Russia did not participate in that Summit, and we would not have commented on the false allegations of Ukraine had they not been brought by Kiev to the United Nations.

The anti-Russian attacks in those documents are unfounded and misleading. They are an attempt to shift the blame by turning the facts on their heads.

Russia has responded to those attacks in statements delivered by its delegation at the United Nations General Assembly and in document INFCIRC/876 of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The real concern for States Members of the United Nations should not be the latest fantasies of the authorities in Kiev about Russian intrigues, but rather the extremely alarming security situation in Ukraine itself as a result of the policies of Kiev.

Extremist forces remain active and have arms at their disposal. The most striking examples are the attempt by the Right Sector, an organization banned in Russia, to seize control of a nuclear power plant in the southern Ukrainian city of Energodar in May 2014, and the shelling by Ukrainian armed forces of sites storing radioactive sources in Donbass, including a large radioactive waste disposal site in Donetsk.

The Kiev authorities have decided to persist with attempts to load nuclear fuel produced by a United States company into the reactors of Ukrainian nuclear power plants. That practice has already led to repeated problems with the operation of pressurized water reactors in Ukraine and in other countries.

Dangerous decisions are being taken to switch the output control mode of Ukrainian nuclear power plants to allow for a significant reduction in power output,

something for which the nuclear reactors operating in Ukraine were not designed. That in itself could result in nuclear accidents. The danger is far higher if fuel not designed for the plant reactors is also placed in their cores. In the year of the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in Ukraine, the Ukrainian authorities are engaged in dangerous experiments that could threaten the security of the whole of Europe.

The process of building infrastructure for the large-scale disposal of radioactive waste using the money of foreign sponsors, which began following the coup d'état in February 2014, is especially alarming. In particular, in June 2015 the Kiev authorities announced the opening of a central radioactive waste repository in the Chernobyl exclusion zone. Over the coming decades, Kiev intends to increase its storage capacity to be able to handle tens of thousands of cubic metres of spent radioactive sources. According to the experts, the capacities being built up significantly exceed the needs of Ukraine itself. It appears that the infrastructure being built is for the storage of foreign waste. In other words, the current authorities have decided to turn Ukraine into a nuclear dumping ground. Responsibility for the very likely adverse consequences resulting from the placement of radioactive waste in a politically and economically unstable territory lies not only with the authorities in Kiev, but also with the States that are providing assistance for the construction of such a storage facility and that intend to use it to store their radioactive waste.

The irresponsible calls of a number of Ukrainian politicians to build and even deploy a nuclear weapon have not gone unnoticed. We understand perfectly well that there is no real capability for politicians in Kiev to follow up on such plans. However, the fact that the Ukrainian elite has those intentions speaks volumes.

Thus, it is not the imaginary complaints of the authorities in Kiev that should concern States Members of the United Nations, but rather the emergence in Eastern Europe of a major source of instability threatening the entire Eurasian continent. And that threat is being compounded because critical and hazardous infrastructure from a once politically stable and developed State is now in the hands of the Kiev authorities.

I would like to take this opportunity once again to draw the attention of States Members of the United Nations to the statement on the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy and modern-day nuclear security in Europe, adopted by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 15 April 2016.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**